(d) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase rail ticket counters in view of the increasing number of passengers at this station day by day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Though there was some delay in procurement of some new printed tickets due to change in fare structure with effect from 1.4.2002, at present there is no shortage of tickets. At Kalyan station, five card ticket and two season ticket windows are provided for suburban traffic and four counters have been provided for non-suburban traffic on West side. In addition, two card ticket windows and one season ticket window are provided for suburban traffic on the East side. An additional booking office at Lokgram side is under consideration and will be provided, if found justified.

Employment through privatisation in Railways

1875. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have partially privatised the responsibility of sanitation and handed it over to NGOs, at different railway stations, residential colonies, rail yards, godowns etc.;

(b) if so, whether the railways would consider on similar lines, to give the job of issuing tickets to unemployed educated youths residing in and around small stations and flag stations; and

(c) what other employment generating schemes the Railways are planning as a part of privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Certain specific activities like operation of some of the Pay and Use toilets at stations have given to NGOs, Co-operative agencies etc.

(b) At halt stations and some flag stations, agents are appointed for issuing of tickets on commission basis. The criteria for appointment of the halt contractor *inter alia* prescribes that he/she should be a permanent resident of the place where halt station is opened, should be at least 8th standard pass and should have working knowledge of simple English so as to read the names of stations and the value of tickets. Unemployed youths fulfilling these conditions can also apply.

(c) Employment is generated in execution of Railway projects.